

22 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Adoption of AHIP Area Classification Scheme

25X1A9a

1. Col. DeBruler and Maj. Sanders of AFCIN came over this date to discuss with [REDACTED] and with me their problem of authorizing the use of the new AHIP Area Classification in their automatic disseminator project.
2. Developments leading up to the present situation are complex and are only briefly summarized below:

Air Force got underway with Eastman on the development of Minicard in 1953 using CIA subject and area code schemes and basic procedures.

In late 1955 or early 1956, Air asked Magnavox to build an automatic disseminator which would correlate the area and subject codes assigned to documents for Minicarding purposes with the reading requirements of all Air components needing to see incoming documents.

There was no immediate problem for Eastman in designing Minicard to use the CIA subject and area code schemes, but in the case of the automatic disseminator it was almost immediately concluded that the disseminator could not be operated to service all AFCIN customers using the (AMS) area code structure. Magnavox went ahead to do the best it could with the AMS code while AFCIN asked AHIP to establish a Working Group to locate or to design a new area code scheme. This Group began work in January 1957 and submitted its final report on Monday, 19 August for AHIP consideration at its September meeting.

The Air Force contract for the disseminator calls for a test based on the old area code, then, assuming the new code is adopted, a subsequent test program for it. Col. DeBruler stated the Air policy of maintaining complete and detailed compatibility between the Air Force and CIA Minicard projects, thus, his organization wants to know whether AHIP and in particular CIA will adopt the new code. If there is any possibility that CIA will not use the code then AFCIN will not and in Col. DeBruler's opinion the automatic disseminator will be abandoned.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

-2-

If CIA does intend to use the area code when its Minicard operation gets underway, then AFCIN if it acts immediately (before 1 Sept.) can:

- a. Eliminate the projected test of the disseminator using the old area code.
- b. Modify the engineering contract with Magnavox with some dollar saving.
- c. Start AFCIN coders training and then actually coding according to the new area code.

3. Speaking for CIA, I summarized our situation and viewpoint as follows:

There is no way of assuring by mere verbal acceptance at AHIP that the new area code will work in practice and that we will retain it permanently. (Likewise the success of the automatic disseminator is by no means assured at this date.)

The old (AMS) area code while awkward in many respects has the advantage of many years of use and could be used for Minicard purposes indefinitely by both CIA and Air Force. On the other hand, we believe that the proposed new area scheme is more logical, more easily expanded to fit changing political boundaries, and in practice may prove more efficient to apply.

We also concur in the Air Force philosophy that complete and exact compatibility between the Air and CIA systems is a first general objective although we cannot tell as yet whether small variations in practice would interfere in any serious way with major objectives. We are interested in seeing the Air automatic disseminator project succeed because if it does it may bring benefits to CIA.

As to CIA getting underway with Minicard - we are some months away just in terms of operating one family of equipment. Said family may have the capacity, perhaps on a two-shift basis, for processing all CIA documents. The equipment needed to process State, Army, Navy and non-IAC documents is not yet on order and might take a year or more to construct. Therefore CIA sees an initial period when its IBM INTELLIFAX will continue full scale while Minicard coverage of CIA documents is established and tested. Sometime during this period CIA will begin

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

-3-

utilizing Air Force Minicards for Air documents. Finally with the Air and CIA coverage well established, CIA will give up intellofaxing documents from these sources and live exclusively from Minicard coverage. Documents from all the other source agencies named above will continue to be intellofaxed until Minicard capacity is built up to handle them.

The above schedule means that CIA service elements - reference librarians and Machine Division programmers - must operate a dual system of search and response for each request placed with them. Part of the search produce will be Minicards, part Intellofax tapes and micro-film aperture cards, and part will be special systems such as IPI, Flashes, Nodexes, etc.

4. Conclusion and recommendations:

That CIA approve the new AHIP Area Classification scheme for testing.

That CIA begin using the new area codes for INTELOFAX on 1 October 1957.

That CIA announce these decisions to the Air Force to assist them in their development of the automatic disseminator.

25X1A9a

Chief, Document Division

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L